

OLC 69-0768

9 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator J. W. Fulbright

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1. On instructions from the Director and after consulting with the DDP, I called on Senator Fulbright today in response to his 2 September letter to the Director inquiring about the above matter. I reminded the Senator that he had been briefed on the matter in December 1960 when he met with Agency representatives and the

The Senator was quite hazy about this. In fact he was quite hazy about his inquiry to the Director which apparently had been drafted by a member of his staff and which he had read only hastily if at all.

2. In briefing the Senator (and later at his request Mr. Carl Marcy, on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff), I made the following points:

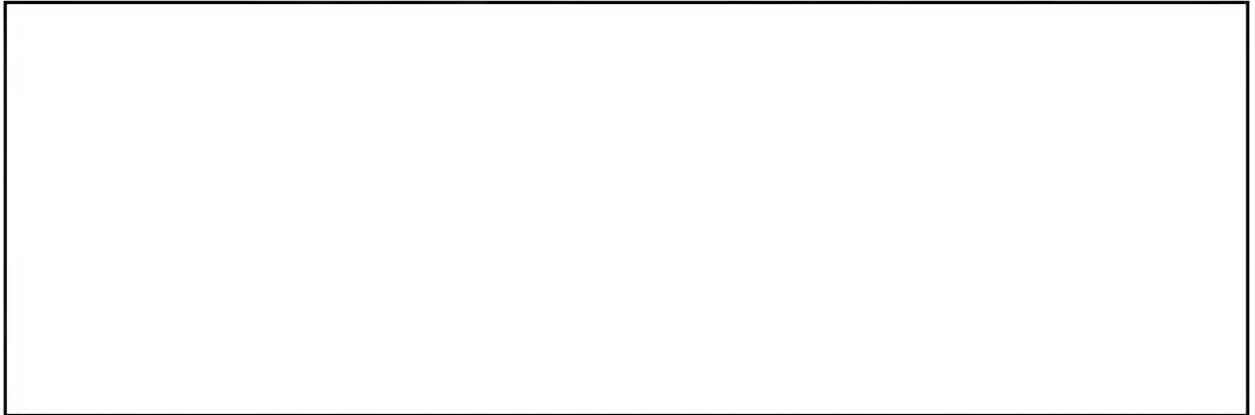
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4. The Senator had some time on his hands awaiting a quorum call and he turned the conversation to current Senate debates about the C-5A, etc. He said it was "incredible" to learn how many defects had developed in our new weapons, and he had heard from a number of people about the superiority of Soviet weapons. For example, he understood that our combat troops in Vietnam were unanimous in the view that the AK-47 rifle of Soviet design was far superior to the U.S. M-16. He recalled the Director's testimony about the advanced design of Soviet aircraft, helicopters, etc., and he wondered why we didn't at least have enough sense to copy Soviet designs rather than insist on defective models of our own.

5. The Senator then turned to the Agency's role in some of the recent congressional debates, and said he hoped he had not put the Director in a difficult position with the Administration by engineering a confrontation between the Director and Secretary Laird. I said I didn't think this caused any trouble so far as we were concerned because the Director simply reported the facts as we knew them and this was exactly what he was paid to do. Fulbright said he understood that some press correspondents claimed to have gotten onto a story that the Director was in the "doghouse" with the Administration. I said I had heard this rumor but strongly doubted its accuracy. Fulbright said that if the Director ever did get into difficulty with the Administration as a result of testifying candidly before Congress, Fulbright wanted to know about it--he might be able to help, and he would certainly do so if he could.

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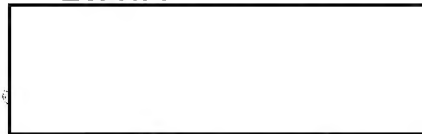
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Fulbright went on to say that the Director had been the one Administration witness that his Committee had heard this year who seemed to be right on the Vietnam situation, on some of the Soviet weapons programs, and on some other questions of major importance.

6. Fulbright remarked that he had recently talked to Secretary Laird and was happy to say that Laird seemed in an amicable mood despite the hard time he'd had before the Foreign Relations Committee-- "he wants to kiss and make up in spite of what we did to him on the ABM."

7. As we broke up, I gave the Senator a quick rundown on the Green Beret case and, at his request, I summarized it for Carl Marcy.

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